Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00231 171509Z

46
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S E C R E T USNATO 0231

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
SUBJECT: ATLANTIC RELATIONS DRAFTING IN "THOUGHT GROUP."

REF: (A) STATE 009124; (B) USNATO 0193; (C) USNATO 0170

1. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE "THOUGHT GROUP" ON THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION WAS HELD 16 JANUARY WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL KASTL AS CHAIRMAN AND THE PARTICIPATION OF PERMREPS OF BELGIUM, CANADA, FRANCE, FRG AND THE US. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REF A, US PARTICIPATION WAS LOW KEY, CHIEFLY POSING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW FRENCH TEXT OF PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 5.

2. AMBASSADOR DE ROSE (FRANCE) EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW FIRST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 3 (REF B) REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT TO EMPHASIZE SOLIDARITY AND INDIVISIBILITY BEFORE MENTIONING THE DIFFERENCE IN THE STRATEGIC SITUATIONS OF THE US AND EUROPE. THEY THOUGHT THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO A SUGGESTION OF THE US EXPRESSED IN THE COUNCIL. ON THE POINT OF THE DIFFERENCES IN THE SITUATION OF THE US AND EUROPE, HE ARGUED THAT THE WORDS "HAS NOT ITS EQUIVALENCE IN EUROPE" ARE A SUBSTITUTE FOR THEIR EARLIER ARGUMENT ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES IN "VULNERABILITY." THEY PREFER THE EARLIER ARGUMENT, MADE THE CHANGE IN RESPONSE TO US AND OTHERS' OBJECTIONS, AND INSIST THAT THEY MUST HAVE ONE OR THE OTHER TO SATISFY EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH IS WELL AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM.
SECRET
PAGE 02 NATO 00231 171509Z

3. AS FOR THE SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE JUNE 22 AGREEMENT, DE ROSE SAID IT IS LINKED IN THEIR MINDS WITH THE PROBLEM OF VULNERABILITY. IT IS CALLED AN AGREEMENT TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR, BUT HENRY KISSINGER ASSURED HIM PERSONALLY IN SAN CLEMENTE THAT IT IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT ALL WAR.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

EUROPE NEEDS TO HEAR THIS EXPLANATION AND BE REASSURED
THAT THE US DOES NOT MEAN TO RULE OUT ONLY NUCLEAR WAR AND
NOT OTHER KINDS OF WAR. PUTTING THE ASSURANCE IN THE
MOUTHS OF THE ALLIES, AS HAS BEEN PROPOSED, WILL NOT
PROVIDE THE REASSURANCE THEY THINK IS NECESSARY. AT THE MINI-
MUM IF THE DATE IS REMOVED, THE SENTENCE MUST BE ATTRIBUTED TO
US, NOT THE ALLIES.

4. AMBASSADOR MENZIES (CANADA) HANDED OUT A CANADIAN
TEXT OF PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4, WHICH HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY
AMENDED FROM THE TEXT CIRCULATED 14 JANUARY AND
TRANSMITTED REF C. (THE NEW TEXT AND MENZIES' WRITTEN
EXPLANATION OF IT BEING TRANSMITTED BY SEPTEL.) THERE
WAS VERY LITTLE DISCUSSION OF IT, BUT IT IS BASED ON
US TEXTS (STATE 236115) AND DESERVES VERY CAREFUL STUDY
BY US.

5. COMMENT: IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE LATEST FRENCH CHANGES TO
PARAS. 3 AND 5 DO NOT HELP MUCH. HOWEVER KASTL, KRAPF (FRG), AND
DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) EXPRESSED THE OPINION IN THE MEETING THAT THE
FRENCH ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. END COMMENT.

6. IN ACCORD WITH REF. A, PARAGRAPH 3, I QUESTIONED ON
A PERSONAL BASIS WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING IN THE
DECLARATION THAT SUGGESTS ADDING FRESH DIMENSIONS TO
ALLIANCE COOPERATION. KASTL AND DE ROSE RESPONDED
PROMPTLY THAT IT IS TAKEN CARE OF IN THE PRESENT PARAGRAPH
10, BUT THEY WERE NOT MORE SPECIFIC.

7. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY AFTERNOON,
21 JANUARY BUT ONLY IF I HAVE SOME INSTRUCTED COMMENT. IT WAS
AGREED THAT TEXTS AND DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE
RESTRICTED TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE THOUGHT
GROUP AND NOT YET MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHER DELEGATIONS. COMMENT:
IN MY OPINION ANOTHER MEETING MIGHT BE FRUITFUL IF WE CON-
SECRET
PAGE 03 NATO 00231 171509Z

CENTRATE ON DISCUSSION OF THE CANADIAN TEXT AND NOT
GO OVER ONCE AGAIN THE FAMILIAR GROUND OF THE FRENCH
TEXT AND US OBJECTIONS. ONE WAY TO ACHIEVE THAT WOULD
BE TO WITHDRAW THE US VERSIONS OF PARAS 3 AND 4 AND
ACCEPT THE NEW CANADIAN LANGUAGE. END COMMENT.
RUMSFELD

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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